



**SAFE
CLEAN
WATER
PROGRAM**

Draft Biennial Progress Report

FOR ROC DISCUSSION

October 12, 2023



Executive Summary

The Safe, Clean Water Program (“SCWP” or “Program”) is a landmark program that funds Los Angeles County (LA County) stormwater initiatives that improve water quality, increase local water supply, and provide community benefits, such as green spaces and parks. The Program cultivates regional and community partnerships while prioritizing investments in historically underserved communities.

This Draft Biennial SCWP Progress Report (Biennial Report or Report) was developed by the SCWP Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to provide an update on SCWP progress and provide recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors (Board). The Report aligns with the definition of “SCW Program Progress Report” outlined in the LA County Code of Ordinance (18.02.k – Definitions¹ and 18.08.C.5 - Duties and Responsibilities). It summarizes all Regional Program Watershed Area Regional Program Progress (WARPP) Reports, Municipal Program annual progress and expenditure reports, and District Program annual reports, and includes findings regarding whether SCWP Goals are being achieved, and specific recommendations from the ROC. This report marks the first Biennial Report compiled since the establishment of the SCWP, covering the substantial efforts of the Program's initial four years.

Much of this Report details how the Program functions, progress to date, and highlights areas that are already being adaptively managed and refined. It also includes observations and recommendations developed by the ROC based on their insights into the Program, and feedback from stakeholders and the public. Given the SCWP’s complexity and scope, the recommendations outlined in the report represent the ROC’s highest-priority and most time-sensitive issues. However, it is worth noting that any recommendation or topic not featured here is not excluded from becoming a priority in the future.

This Report will be presented in draft form at the ROC meeting on October 26, 2023, which will be followed by a public comment period in December 2023 or January 2024 depending on the outcomes of the October 26, 2023 ROC Meeting. A revised draft will be presented at a subsequent ROC meeting in January or February 2024. The Final Biennial Report will be conveyed to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors via a Board Memo in early 2024 following a ROC vote to submit the Report.

Please submit any questions or comments related to this draft Report to SafeCleanWaterLA@dpw.lacounty.gov.

¹ "SCW Program Progress Report" means a biennial report that summarizes all Regional Program WARPP Reports, all Municipal Program annual progress and expenditure reports, and all District Program annual reports and makes findings regarding whether and the extent to which SCWP requirements were met and SCWP Goals were achieved.



Draft Biennial Report

Executive Summary	1
Purpose	4
ROC Recommendations	6
Recommendations 6 – 10: Goal-specific Guidance Clarifications	7
Recommendations 11 & 12: Community Outreach and Engagement.....	8
Recommendations 13 – 15: Administrative/Procedural	9
Safe, Clean Water Program Overview	10
SCWP Goals.....	11
SCWP Accomplishments	12
Adaptive Management of the SCWP.....	14
What has been completed or established to date?.....	14
What is in progress?	16
What is anticipated to be initiated prior to the next Biennial Report?.....	17
What may be undertaken in the future?	19
Regional Program.....	20
Summary of Regional Program Funded Projects, Studies, and Concepts.....	21
Projected Project Benefits.....	23
Project Status & Phases	26
Funding and Expenditures	27
Watershed Coordinator Program	28
Regional Program Findings.....	29
Municipal Program.....	31
Municipal Program Funding Process.....	31

Summary of Local Tax Return for Municipalities	32
Summary of Reported Activity and Expenditure	32
Summary of SCWP Goals Achieved Through Municipal Program.....	34
Municipal Program Findings.....	36
District Program.....	37
Program Administration	38
District Education Programs.....	40
District Program Findings.....	41
Conclusion.....	42
Appendices.....	43
Appendix A - Summary of Program Awards Received	44
Appendix B - Summary of Funded Scientific Studies	45
Appendix C - Watershed Coordinator Activities.....	46

Purpose

This Safe, Clean Water Program (“SCWP” or “Program”) Draft Biennial Program Progress Report (Biennial Report or Report) was developed by the SCWP Regional Oversight Committee (ROC) to provide an update on SCWP progress and provide recommendations to the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors. The Report serves as the biennial “SCW Program Progress Report” as defined in the Los Angeles County (LA County) Code of Ordinance (18.02.k – Definitions and 18.08.C.5 - Duties and Responsibilities). The Report summarizes all [Regional Program Watershed Area Regional Program Progress \(WARPP\) Reports](#), Municipal Program annual progress and expenditure reports, District Program annual reports, and also includes findings regarding whether Program Goals are being achieved, and specific recommendations from the ROC. This is the first Biennial Report compiled since the establishment of the SCWP and captures the significant efforts from the first four years of the Program.

Procedurally, it is specified in the Ordinance that “the ROC shall biennially prepare a SCW Program Progress Report for the Board in accordance with the following procedures:

- The ROC shall prepare a draft SCW Program Progress Report, circulate the draft for public comment, and conduct a noticed public hearing to receive public comments on the draft;
- After the conclusion of the public hearing, the ROC shall revise the draft SCW Program Progress Report as it determines necessary or appropriate based on the public comments received; and
- The ROC shall submit the final SCW Program Progress Report to the Board and make the final Report available to the public.”

The expenditures and progress reported on for the different sub-programs in this Draft Report is dependent on the different respective fund allocation, fund disbursement, and reporting cycles. Each of the subsections below provides additional detail on which years of funds are included in this Report; however, it is important to note that there will always be a perceived lag in content summarized in the Biennial Reports due to different reporting and funding timelines.

This Report includes an overview of the substantial program achievements to date as well as the adaptive management actions already taken to update the Program. As this is the first Biennial Report compiled for the SCWP, there is acknowledgement of the substantial efforts made to stand up the Program, as well as acknowledgement that the Program is transitioning from the initial implementation phase into a period of further adaptation and refinement.

The other primary purpose of this Report is to provide recommendations from the ROC to the Board of Supervisors regarding the ROC’s desired enhancement of the SCWP. These recommendations have been brought to the front of this report but are derived from review of

the extensive program information included in the rest of the report. The ROC requests that these recommendations be considered by the Board and the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (District), and that the District establish a timeline/pathway to implementing these recommendations pending the outcome of legal reviews and the consideration of available resources. It is understood that Program revisions may subsequently be incorporated into the Program via different implementation mechanisms that require varying actions/authorities as summarized in the ROC Recommendations section.

DRAFT

ROC Recommendations

The recommendations included in this Report have been thoughtfully prioritized by the ROC and reflect input from diverse stakeholders as well as from subject-specific focus groups on the topics of water supply, community investment benefits, disadvantaged community benefits, and community engagement. The generality of the recommendations is intentional to allow for flexibility during the assessment and implementation of the ROC's recommendations. If a recommendation or topic is not prioritized below, it is not precluded from becoming a priority later.

There are multiple concurrent efforts—such as a Metrics and Monitoring Study (MMS)—that are envisioned to further inform how some of these recommendations are implemented. It is expected that within six months of this report, the District will establish a timeline/pathway to implementing these recommendations, subject to legal review, adherence to Ordinance-required processes, and consideration of resources.

Table 1 illustrates the four tiers of authority and mechanisms for implementation of the various recommendations in the SCWP. Some recommendations can be addressed directly by District staff, while others will require more lengthy and complicated procedures and different authorities. The level of authority needed to approve a recommendation is noted within the individual recommendations below.

Table 1: Tiers of authority and mechanisms for recommendations to be implemented.

Authority	Mechanism for Recommendation to be Implemented
Tier 1 (District Staff)	Regional Program Application Portal Supplementary data, plans, and tools Supplementary guidance documents Regional and Municipal Program Reporting Module
Tier 2 (District Chief Engineer or designee)	Operating Guidelines Feasibility Study Guidelines and Scoring Criteria
Tier 3 (Board of Supervisors)	Funds Transfer Agreement Provisions Ordinance Revisions within authority of County Supervisors
Tier 4 (Legislation or Voters)	Ordinance Revisions requiring vote and/or legislation

Recommendations 1 – 5: Planning and Tracking Modifications

Initial processes and requirements were established at the launch of SCWP to facilitate program and project-level assessment and tracking. Based on experience to date, refinements are needed to create more precise and/or additional metrics and scoring criteria that align with the SCWP Goals, streamline and enhance the Regional Program application process, and proactively support the development and implementation of forward-looking watershed area plans. In the interest of improving program and project planning and tracking, the ROC offers the following recommendations:

1. Expedite watershed planning efforts to include consideration of previous and concurrent studies, confer with subject-matter experts, and incorporate input from Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs) related to watershed-specific priorities (consistent with [July 25 motion by Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath: Accelerating Implementation of the SCWP](#)) (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
2. Implement new metrics, monitoring, and project assessment criteria into Regional Program Application and Reporting Modules (Tier 1, Tier 2 and Tier 3)
3. Assess separate processes for projects applying for different stages of the Infrastructure Program (design, construction, operations and maintenance) and different project sizes, with the overarching goal of streamlining application processes (consistent with July 25 Board Motion) (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
4. Implement new metrics, monitoring, and project assessment criteria for the Municipal Program Annual Plan and Annual Reporting processes (Tier 1 and Tier 3)
5. Assess and revise scoring criteria for the Regional Program to account for metrics proposed by the MMS and others, including cost indexing, the addition of Disadvantaged Community scoring criteria, and other goal-specific considerations (Tier 2)

Recommendations 6 – 10: Goal-specific Guidance Clarifications

SCWP implementation is guided by 14 Goals. While progress has been made in supporting the planning and assessment of these goals, there are additional needs to clarify definitions, specify metrics for quantifying benefits, and set targets and guiding principles for specific goals. To help ensure clear and consistent interpretation and implementation across the various SCWP sub-programs, the ROC offers the following recommendations:

6. Clarify definitions for locally available water supply and establish initial water supply targets for each of the nine watershed areas with focus on areas of greatest opportunity, starting with an estimate based on percentage of runoff captured and adapting as appropriate over time and in consideration of other existing information and targets (or portions of targets) established through other efforts (e.g., Integrated Regional Water Management [IRWM] Program, California Water Plan [CWP], One Water LA 2040 Plan, MS4 compliance Enhanced Watershed Management and Watershed Management Plans [EWMPs/WMPs], Los Angeles Basin Study, etc.) (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
7. Expand Disadvantaged Community guidance to establish a clear process for determining and defining Disadvantaged Community Benefits informed by the MMS (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
8. Develop Community Investment Benefit (CIB) guidance to include specific metrics, clarify definitions, and quantify benefits informed by the MMS and comprehensive watershed planning (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
9. Revise Feasibility Guidelines to require distinction between nature-based solutions and nature-mimicking solutions, and clarify what it means to prioritize Nature-Based Solutions (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
10. Assess water quality metrics, monitoring, and assessment criteria within the context of other regional water quality programs and projects, and better characterize upstream and downstream project interactions (Tier 1 and Tier 2)

Recommendations 11 & 12: Community Outreach and Engagement

Community outreach and engagement play a vital role in the SCWP. Nevertheless, some proponents seem to have lingering challenges in obtaining and effectively incorporating meaningful community input into the Regional Program processes, and particularly in involving certain groups and demographics. With the goal of increasing and diversifying engagement and participation in mind, the ROC offers the following recommendations:

11. In conjunction with Watershed Coordinator annual Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans (SOEP) and other SCWP outreach efforts, leverage the education and engagement grants program to increase Program participation by community groups, schools, and tribes (Tier 1)
12. In conjunction with Watershed Coordinator SOEPs, establish a means to solicit and incorporate community input and needs in an ongoing manner for the Technical Resources Program (TRP), Infrastructure Program, and Scientific Studies (Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3)

Recommendations 13 – 15: Administrative/Procedural

The SCWP is a complex and nuanced program designed with a focus on transparency and accountability. To facilitate ongoing adaptation of Program administration and oversight, as well as to ensure that adequate resources and staff are provided for effective implementation, the ROC offers the following recommendations:

13. Refine the process and timeline for the ROC to evaluate whether Program Goals are being advanced at the Program and watershed levels per the Ordinance, including bringing Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) to the ROC as they are approved by the WASCs to allow for more timely review and deliberation, and developing a dashboard to assess Program-wide benefits (Regional Program, Municipal Program, and District Program) over time (Tier 1 and Tier 2)
14. Revise Regional Program quarterly reporting to twice-yearly in conjunction with Project Modification Reports (Ordinance change, Board Approval) (Tier 3)
15. Establish additional dedicated staff resources to support planning, adaptive management, implementation, and success of SCWP as it continues to expand, including the Board-directed comprehensive watershed planning group (Tier 3)

Safe, Clean Water Program Overview

The SCWP is a pioneering regional initiative that provides dedicated local funding to increase water supply, safeguard and improve water quality, and deliver community benefits, with particular focus on historically underserved communities. The Program was created in 2018 following the approval of Measure W by LA County voters, which established a special parcel tax of 2.5 cents per square foot of impermeable surface area on private properties within the jurisdiction of the LA County Flood Control District. The Program receives approximately \$280M annually, with a total of \$1.12B collected as of July 2023.

The Program is designed to promote a multi-benefit approach to stormwater management, encouraging innovation and adaptive management. It supports projects and programs that contribute to the fulfillment of US Clean Water Act requirements and addresses many other priorities across LA County related to equity, climate resilience, sustainability, and workforce development. Since its inception in 2018, the SCWP has allocated over \$959.8M² to the combined Regional and Municipal Programs across nine Watershed Areas and 86 municipalities to fund activities such as projects, studies, concepts, and programs.

What distinguishes the SCWP is its regional and collaborative approach to addressing the stormwater management needs of LA County. It engages communities in the design and implementation of local infrastructure improvements and prioritizes nature-based solutions that can enhance communities with amenities such as green spaces and recreation areas. These efforts help mitigate the urban heat island effect and make neighborhoods and communities more climate resilient. The Program also places significant emphasis on education, outreach, and engagement, including the development of sub-programs to provide environmental education to K-12 students, and support for growing a workforce with expertise in green infrastructure and stormwater management.

The multi-benefit and innovative nature of the Program complements other Countywide initiatives including the OurCounty sustainability plan and Infrastructure LA to help build the resilience and sustainability of the region. The SCWP is established by District Code Chapters 16 and 18. Many additional governing documents, resources, and guidance referred to throughout this Report can be found on the SCWP [website](#).

² Note that all numerical values are representative of the first four years of the Program (FY20-21, FY21-22, FY22-23, and FY23-24) unless otherwise explicitly specified - Includes Municipal Program disbursements as of September 2023. Disbursements for FY23-24 are estimated to start late 2023.

SCWP Goals

The SCWP is being implemented consistent with the Program Goals outlined in Ordinance Section 18.04:

- A. Improve water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements
- B. Increase drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins
- C. Improve public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space
- D. Leverage other funding sources to maximize SCWP Goals
- E. Invest in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits
- F. Prioritize Nature-Based Solutions
- G. Provide a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales
- H. Encourage innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices
- I. Invest in independent scientific research
- J. Provide [Disadvantaged Community] Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the [disadvantaged communities] population to the total population in each Watershed Area
- K. Provide Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to [Disadvantaged Communities], to the extent feasible
- L. Implement an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management
- M. Promote green jobs and career pathways
- N. Ensure ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects

A number of these goals are programmatic in nature and are inherent to the manner that the SCWP has been framed and is being implemented. Other goals are being tracked more explicitly through the current Regional and Municipal Program frameworks including Feasibility Studies, Annual Reporting, and Annual Plans. Where applicable, progress for specific goals will be highlighted throughout this Report.

The SCWP is organized around three different sub-programs: the Regional Program, Municipal Program, and District Program. Further detail on each of these programs is provided later in this Report within their respective subsections.

SCWP Accomplishments

The first few years of the SCWP have included significant effort to stand up a complex governance structure, including establishing 182 total active committee member seats across eleven committees, and developing guidance and policies to facilitate transparency and accountability at all levels of the Program. These efforts have included contributions from, and collaboration with, the Board of Supervisors, municipalities, partner agencies, community stakeholders, non-governmental agencies, consultants, academia and many others—establishing the baseline for the adaptive management efforts summarized in this Report.

The SCWP has successfully funded regional multi-benefit projects and has provided direct funding to municipalities to undertake projects and activities that make progress towards the SCWP Goals. Some key accomplishments and milestones include:

- **Regional Program:** The Board of Supervisors has approved four SIP rounds (36 SIPs in total for 9 watersheds), programming \$513.5M for:
 - 126 Infrastructure Program Multi-benefit Projects
 - 38 Scientific Studies³
 - 37 Project Concepts via the TRP
 - 12 Watershed Coordinators who educate and build capacity in communities and facilitate community and stakeholder engagement, working with and participating on WASCs
 - *Note: The anticipated benefits from these projects are outlined in the Regional Program section of this report.*
- **Municipal Program:** \$446.2M (approximately \$111M annually) has been committed to 85 municipalities and the Unincorporated County for the first four years. In the first two years, disbursements were used to fund over 360 non-Regional Program co-funded Projects and Programs. *Note: The anticipated benefits from these projects are outlined in the Municipal Program section of this report.*
- **District Program:** \$111.5M has been allocated to the District over the first four years of the Program for administering the Program, including technical assistance, regional coordination of the 12 Watershed Coordinators, and District Education Programs including workforce development, K-12 education programs, and general outreach, education, and engagement.

A critical upcoming effort will be to further develop program methods, metrics and monitoring criteria to measure, track, and report on Program Goals and progress in future reports. The

³ Note some special studies are counted more than once if funded in more than one watershed/SIP

Adaptive Management section below includes additional information on such efforts to date that are ongoing and/or are part of future adaptive management.

The early successes of the Program have positioned it as a model for others across the state and country and have also earned a variety of accolades and awards across the industry. A summary of SCWP Awards earned to date is included in Appendix A.

DRAFT

Adaptive Management of the SCWP

Adaptive management is an integral component of this complex and nuanced program and stakeholder input to date has already led to numerous enhancements across the SCWP. There have been many inputs informing the adaptive management process since Program inception. Examples include assessment of attainment/progress towards Program Goals, feedback from Program implementers (e.g., District, municipalities, project proponents), feedback from governing bodies (e.g., ROC, Scoring Committee, WASCs), and input from regional partners, community groups, and the public. Some materials considered in the development of this report include:

- [July 25 motion by Supervisor Lindsey P. Horvath: Accelerating Implementation of the SCWP](#)
- [Regional Oversight Committee](#) meeting minutes and Interim Guidance Workbooks
- [Scoring Committee Memo](#)
- [Los Angeles Waterkeeper Report “Changing the Course – What’s Worked, What Hasn’t, and What’s next for the SCWP”](#)
- [Accelerate Resilience Los Angeles \(ARLA\) Working Group SCWP Recommendations](#)
- [Strategic Concepts in Organizing and Policy Education \(SCOPE\)](#) OurWaterOurVoice Report
- Public Comments related to this report at the June 15 and August 31, 2023 ROC meetings as well as extensive public comment received at other ROC, WASC, and Scoring Committee meetings

What has been completed or established to date?

Significant effort has been invested and progress made in establishing and refining various parts of the Program.

Guidance and Guidelines - As part of the ongoing adaptive management of the SCWP, the District has developed numerous guidance documents and guidelines to further inform and support various elements of the SCWP, including but not limited to the items listed below. Many of these documents were developed through robust stakeholder engagement and public comment processes.

- [Regional Program Committee Handbook](#) (including Feasibility Study Guidelines, Watershed Area Steering Committee Operating Guidelines, Regional Oversight Committee Operating Guidelines, and Scoring Committee Operating Guidelines)
- Guidance for the Regional Program, including:
 - [Call for Projects Information Sessions](#)

- [Public participation and public comments during Governance Committee in-person or virtual meetings](#)
- [Partial Funding Guidelines](#)
- [Pathway to Inclusion in a Regional Water Management Plan](#)
- [Letter of support and conceptual approval requirements for non-municipal \(non-city\) applicants for the Infrastructure Program](#)
- [2022 Interim Guidance](#) on the specific issues identified below
 - Programming of Nature-Based Solutions
 - Implementing Disadvantaged Community Policies in the Regional Program
 - Strengthening Community Engagement and Support
 - Water Supply
- [Reporting and Audit Requirements Handbook for Municipalities](#)

Data and Tools—Numerous tools have been developed and/or compiled by the District to support SCWP management and decision making. These tools are regularly updated and maintained as part of adaptive management, and it is anticipated that many will be updated with outputs from the MMS and upcoming watershed planning efforts.

- [SCW Portal](#), which includes user-friendly applications and interfaces for many interested parties to participate in and/or learn about investments in the Program
 - Application Module for Project Developers to submit project applications which undergoes annual enhancements to improve user interface and user experience, streamline the application process, and better facilitate alignment with SCWP goals and objectives
 - Portal Map with summary information and links to detailed Plans and Reports for Regional Program Infrastructure Projects, Scientific Studies and the TRP
 - Regional Program Reporting Dashboard that provides the ability to filter and assess Regional Program investments in a user-friendly interface
 - Bid and Project schedule information to inform interested parties about upcoming bid opportunities and construction schedule for Regional and Municipal Program Projects and Studies
 - Reporting Module for Project Developers to submit Reports
 - SIP Programming Tool to track SIPs across the nine Watershed Areas and support decision-making by the WASCs following the annual Call for Projects
- [Safe Clean Water Spatial Data Library](#), which is a collection of public geospatial data resources including water quality, hydrology, community characteristics, Disadvantaged Community indicators, municipal and political information, and IRWM information. Data can be visualized using the tool to see how different elements are aligned, for instance, exploring areas that are high priority for new parks and also subject to poor surface water quality. Spatial data is downloadable for use. Applicants, committee members, and other interested parties can use this library to explore the interconnected, dynamic relationships at play, a key concept of multi-benefit projects. The library can be used for communication, project proposals, decision support, and more.

Equity in Stormwater Investments White Paper – The University of California Los Angeles (UCLA) Luskin Center for Innovation and Stantec were commissioned by the District—as an early deliverable within MMS—to develop a white paper addressing strategies for emphasizing equity in stormwater investments. The white paper offers advice to the SCWP for measuring community engagement and Disadvantaged Community Benefits to better achieve the equitable impact sought by the SCWP. The findings of the [white paper](#) are incorporated into the final recommendations of the MMS.

What is in progress?

A number of SCWP updates are underway, many of which are summarized below.

SCWP Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program – As part of the District Education Program, the District is entering into an agreement with the Water Foundation to develop and administer a public education and community engagement grants program (Grants Program) for the SCWP. The Grants Program will ultimately award grants to non-profits, community groups, small municipalities, and others to support sustained community engagement and education that advance the Program Goals. A Sole Source Agreement with the Water Foundation was adopted on June 6, 2023 by the Board of Supervisors for a not-to-exceed amount of \$10M over a 3 year term.

Metrics and Monitoring Study – The SCWP MMS is being conducted by an interdisciplinary consultant team with expertise in both the technical and socio-political elements of metrics-setting and is informed by extensive stakeholder involvement. Recommendations from the MMS, in concert with findings from other efforts and studies, are expected to help advance ROC recommendations presented in this Report, including informing SCWP processes and updates to guidance documents, scoring criteria, project development, and monitoring. The MMS is scheduled to be completed in early 2024. Additional information can be found at the [MMS page](#) of the SCWP website.

Alternative Water Supply Scoring Pilot for FY24-25 Call for Projects – The District analyzed 183 Infrastructure Program applications (including projects that were accepted and funded, considered but not funded, referred to the TRP, or were currently under consideration) to assess potential alternatives for scoring Water Supply Benefits. It was determined that calibrating Water Supply Benefits scoring to historical projects would allow for project proponents to potentially increase their water supply score and address stakeholder concerns about inflation and potential diminishing opportunities resulting from water captured by nearby projects. The pilot scoring rubric is being tested for the FY24-25 Call for Projects, noting that annual updates to the calibration will be needed if implemented long term. A [memorandum on the SCWP website](#) provides additional information.

Complementary and Related Studies — A number of studies are underway that may have impacts for SCWP implementation and/or Project characterization. These include the following:

- BMP Effectiveness Research by the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project has been commissioned by the Public Works Division of Water Quality to develop a BMP Performance Index to rethink how performance can be measured and used to inform when BMP maintenance should occur to optimize benefits.
- Bureau of Reclamation WaterSMART Basin Study Program: Public Works, in collaboration with US Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation (USBR) and US Geological Survey (USGS), and others, is engaged in a study that will produce a model to quantify the deep percolation of stormwater to managed aquifers and to optimize BMP site selection for effective stormwater recharge.

Project Modification Guidelines and Request Form – Experience to date has revealed that there are often circumstances (e.g., cost/budget increases, schedule delays, unforeseen project changes) that warrant modifications to Regional Program Infrastructure Projects and Scientific Studies. [Project Modification Guidelines](#) were recently developed to provide guidance and clarity to WASCs, project proponents, scientific study developers, and interested stakeholders regarding how modifications should be handled. A standardized Project Modification Request Form will streamline the information needed to determine what pathway a modification will require a project proponent/developer to take. The standardization of this process is anticipated to support more timely reporting and resolution for project modifications compared to the existing quarterly reporting process.

Website and SCWP Communications – The SCWP website was originally developed as a source of information about Measure W and has been gradually updated for the adopted SCWP. The District is undertaking a strategic refresh of SCWP communications to better provide consistent, clear, up-to-date, and culturally relevant information about the Program. The website and other communications will be designed to cater to diverse audiences and encourage the sharing of opportunities for participation and engagement. It is anticipated that the refreshed website will launch in early 2024.

What is anticipated to be initiated prior to the next Biennial Report?

Many of the adaptive management actions anticipated to be initiated over the next two years are directly related to the 15 recommendations detailed earlier in this document. The related recommendation number is noted alongside the item below, where applicable.

Initiate Community Strengths and Needs Assessment (*ROC Recommendation #11, and #12*) – In coordination with Watershed Coordinator SOEPs, the District is considering a process

for soliciting and incorporating community input and needs in an ongoing manner to inform all aspects of the SCWP. This includes assessment of already available community needs information and development of a framework that includes ongoing education around SCWP benefits. This activity will align with the activity above, “Accelerate Watershed Planning” to contribute community insights into the planning effort.

Update Regional Program Application and Reporting (*ROC Recommendations #2, #3, #5, #6, #8, #9, and #10*) – In alignment with the July 25 Board Motion for Accelerating Implementation of the SCWP and the outcomes from the MMS, updates to the Regional Program Application and Reporting modules and processes will be assessed. This may include updates to the Feasibility Guidelines and Scoring Criteria, as well as incorporation of new data and tools that may arise from the Community Strengths and Needs effort. This will also include updates to the Regional Program Transfer Agreements.

Update Municipal Program Annual Plan and Reporting (*ROC Recommendations #4, #6, #7, #8, and #10*) — Updates to the Municipal Program planning and reporting requirements will be assessed to align with the outputs from the MMS for SCWP-wide consistency and transparency. This will also include updates to the Municipal Program Transfer Agreements.

Update Current Program Guidance and/or Develop New Program Guidance (*ROC Recommendations #1, #2, #3, #4, #5, #6, #7, #8, #9, #10, #11, and #12*) — Updates to current guidance, such as the 2022 Interim Guidance, and/or establishment of new guidance (e.g., Monitoring Guidance) will be coordinated in conjunction with the aforementioned revisions to Regional Program and Municipal Program updates, watershed planning efforts, and community strengths and needs efforts.

Establish Post-Project Completion Reporting Requirements – Per the Regional Program Transfer Agreement, the District developed a post-performance report template for Infrastructure Program developers to submit after the first, second, and third operational years of a completed project. The post-performance report shall focus on how the project is performing and whether the project is providing intended benefits as proposed.

Refresh Spatial Data Library (*ROC Recommendations #1 and #10*) — Following the completion of the MMS, special studies, and watershed planning efforts, updates will be made to the spatial data library to include additional/refined resources for project developers and program implementers, as appropriate.

Create Clearinghouse on Website for Community Outreach and Engagement Resources (*ROC Recommendations #11 and #12*) – In coordination with the Watershed Coordinators, create a centralized landing page on the website for outreach and engagement resources (e.g., SCWP and/or third-party materials, manuals, guidance, curricula or handouts, signage templates) and potential partnership opportunities to support sustained community outreach and engagement.

Facilitate Additional Sharing of Information Across WASCs, Scoring Committee, and ROC – The Regional Program now has four complete years of SIP deliberations to reflect upon. It could be valuable moving forward to share approaches and innovations across the different WASCs to consider additional guidance or best practices, like the decision made by the Lower San Gabriel River WASC to annually earmark up to \$1.5M for small-sized projects.

What may be undertaken in the future?

The following items have been identified as important for the continued adaptive management of the SCWP; however, they are not currently prioritized due to competing needs and resource limitations. It is possible that some of these may be initiated during the next few years and are included here for reference.

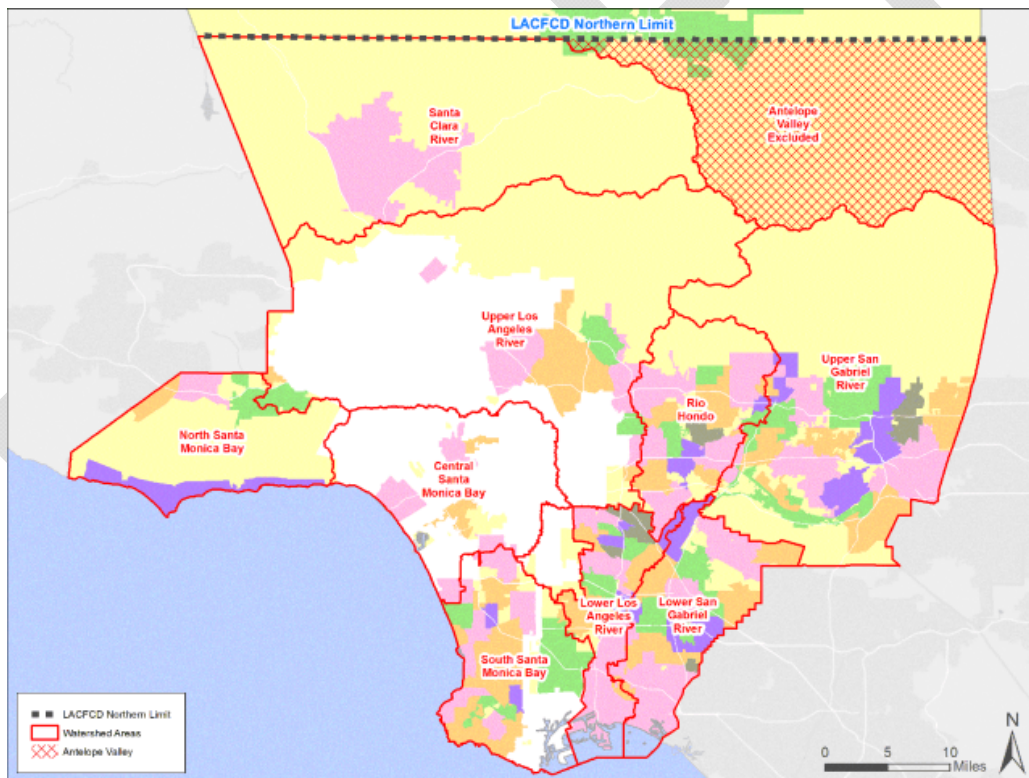
- Develop a monitoring program for Regional and Municipal Program participants
- Update the Municipal Program Portal for plans and reporting to align with the upcoming MMS recommendations for metrics and monitoring criteria for the Municipal Program
- Establish Anti-Displacement guidance (in the context of any broader County efforts)
- Consider a private property incentive program and assess alternatives for promotion of parcel-based bundling
- Assess the potential to fund large-scale projects that cross watersheds
- Assess the potential of, and processes to, use SCWP funds to finance large-scale projects (e.g., bond financing and/or debt service)
- Update processes to improve clarity for applicants and evaluators related to cost-sharing and leveraged funding
- Assess the potential to establish a bench of CBOs and NGOs to support with engagement and project concepts
- In coordination with watershed coordinators, assess potential pre-TRP support for project developers
- Convene a scientific advisory board to review scientific studies and recommend potential areas for future study

Regional Program

The Regional Program receives fifty percent (50%) of the funding from the SCWP annually. The Regional Program is comprised of the Infrastructure Program (IP) (receives not less than 85% of the Regional Program funds), TRP (not more than 10% of the funds), and Scientific Studies Program (not more than 5% of the funds). The Regional Program receives approximately \$139M annually. To date the Regional Program has received \$557.8M (FY20-21 through FY23-24). The Regional Program is subdivided into nine watershed areas overseen by Watershed Area Steering Committees (WASCs), which allocate funding through annual Stormwater Investment Plans (SIPs) for five-year projection periods (see watershed areas in Figure 3).

Detailed information on the timing for the yearly Call for Projects, Regional Program processes, and reporting requirements are on the [SCWP website](#).

Figure 1: Watershed Area Map



Infrastructure Program

The objective of the IP is to plan, build, and maintain watershed-based multi-benefit projects to further progress towards the 14 Program Goals. Each project is required to provide a Water

Quality Benefit, Water Supply Benefit, and/or a Community Investment Benefit. The allocation of IP funds follows a well-defined process outlined in District Code Ch16.05.D.1.

Scientific Studies Program

The Scientific Studies Program provides funding for eligible scientific studies and other activities such as, but not limited to, technical studies, monitoring, modeling, and other similar activities. This Program also includes efforts by the District to use independent research and academic institutions as peer reviewers for activities carried out by other entities.

Technical Resources Program

The TRP provides resources to community groups, municipalities, and individuals who need technical assistance to develop their project concepts into Feasibility Studies that can be considered under the IP. The District provides Technical Assistance Teams that support the development of Feasibility Studies in partnership with the project proponent. The TRP also provides Watershed Coordinators to educate and build capacity in communities and facilitate community and stakeholder engagement.

Summary of Regional Program Funded Projects, Studies, and Concepts

Over the first four years of the SCWP (FY20-21 through FY23-24), 126 IP Projects, 37 TRP Project Concepts, 38 Scientific Studies⁴, and 12 Watershed Coordinators were approved across the nine Watershed Areas. The 126 approved IP Projects to date represent over \$784M in funds programmed through FY27-28. These projects are being implemented across 50 municipalities and are projected to:

- Capture stormwater from over 265,649 acres that drain to the respective projects.
- Invest over \$661M in projects benefiting Disadvantaged Communities.
- Provide an increase in storage capacity for projects that clean stormwater during rain events of 3,237 acre-feet (for a typical rainy day).
- Provide an increase in local water supply through an additional annual average stormwater capture of 59,673 acre-feet.
- Remove 47 acres of impervious area, which reduces concentrated stormwater flows and pollution running off paved surfaces. Increased greenspace can also reduce the urban heat island effect and increase opportunities for community activities.
- Reduce numerous pollutants and contribute to meeting water quality requirements related to stormwater discharges and water quality; and

⁴ Note some special studies are counted more than once if funded in more than one watershed/SIP

- Leverage over \$624M in other funding sources to complete the projects.

A summary of the 16 individual Scientific Studies funded to date is included in Appendix B- Summary of funded Scientific Studies.

Of the 37 funded TRP projects, eight feasibility studies have been developed and subsequently approved for funding through the Infrastructure Program. The remaining funded TRP project concepts have technical assistance teams with work in progress or anticipated to start soon. Additional information about the TRP can be found on the [website](#).

Table 2: Summary of Regional Program Funded Projects, Concepts and Studies

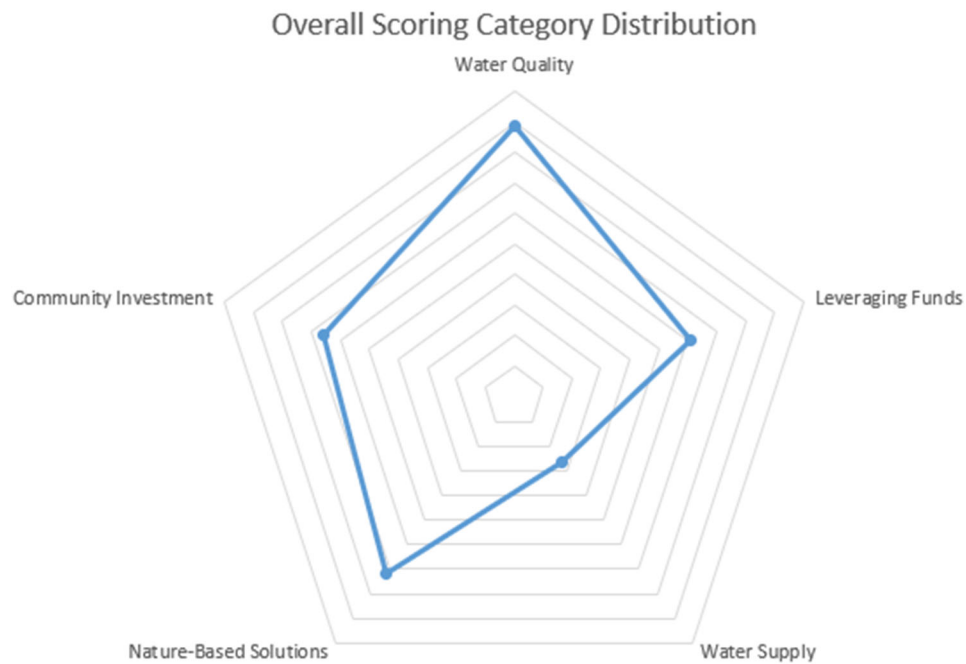
Funding Program	No. of Projects, Concepts, Studies	Total SCW Funding Budgeted & Projected through FY27-28	Total Projected Leveraged Funds	Projected SCW Funding benefitting Disadvantaged Communities
SIP FY20-21	74	\$369,336,000	\$341,929,000	\$306,149,000
Infrastructure Program	41	\$342,350,000	\$341,929,000	\$303,649,000
Scientific Studies	7	\$4,285,000	N/A	N/A
Project Concepts	14	\$4,300,000	N/A	\$2,500,000
Watershed Coordinators	12	\$18,400,000	N/A	N/A
SIP FY21-22	68	\$214,444,000	\$174,088,000	\$161,092,000
Infrastructure Program	36	\$206,142,000	\$174,088,000	\$158,692,000
Scientific Studies	8	\$4,702,000	N/A	N/A
Project Concepts	12	\$3,600,000	N/A	\$2,400,000
SIP FY22-23	59	\$82,210,000	\$25,876,000	\$63,166,000
Infrastructure Program	24	\$74,646,000	\$25,876,000	\$61,666,000
Scientific Studies	17	\$5,764,000	N/A	N/A

Funding Program	No. of Projects, Concepts, Studies	Total SCW Funding Budgeted & Projected through FY27-28	Total Projected Leveraged Funds	Projected SCW Funding benefitting Disadvantaged Communities
Project Concepts	6	\$1,800,000	N/A	\$1,500,000
SIP FY23-24	48	\$168,441,000	\$82,384,000	\$138,418,000
Infrastructure Program	25	\$160,917,000	\$82,384,000	\$137,218,000
Scientific Studies	6	\$6,024,000	N/A	N/A
Project Concepts	5	\$1,500,000	N/A	\$1,200,000
Grand Total	249	\$834,431,000	\$624,277,000	\$668,828,000

Projected Project Benefits

The Scoring Committee evaluated the benefits anticipated to be provided by each proposed project including assessment of claimed Water Quality Benefits, Water Supply Benefits, Community Investment Benefits, Nature-Based Solutions, and Leveraged Funds, as defined in the Project Scoring Criteria in the Feasibility Study Guidelines. As shown in the web plot below, all five scored benefit categories are represented in the funded Regional Program projects, with water quality being the core benefit. In this web plot, the closer to the outside of the plot signifies a greater proportion of projects achieving that Benefit or feature, and the closer to the center of the plot, the smaller the proportion of projects achieving that Benefit or feature.

Figure 2: Overall scoring category distribution for IP Projects in first four years (126 total IP Projects)



Below are tables and graphics that summarize the information collected through applications for the funded IP Projects. The numbers next to the claimed benefits within the “raindrop” represent the number of Infrastructure Program Projects providing the projected benefit.

Table 3: Estimated projected aggregate benefits for IP Projects in first four years (126 total)

Project Characteristic	Value
Total # of IP Projects	126
Area Managed by Projects (acres)	265,649
Project 24-hour Storage Capacity (acre-feet)	4,428 ¹
Annual Average Stormwater Capture (acre-feet)	59,673
Dry Weather Inflow to Projects (cubic feet per sec)	144
Impervious Area Removed (acres)	47

¹For wet-weather Projects only.

Figure 3: Projected Benefits of IP Projects in first four years (126 total IP Projects)



Table 4: Number of IP Projects by BMP type (126 total IP Projects)

Primary BMP Type	Number of IP Projects
Wet Weather Focus	100
Biofiltration	5
Bioretention	4
Cistern	8
Diversion to Sanitary Sewer	4
Infiltration Facility	36
Infiltration Well	23
Treatment Facility	20
Dry Weather Focus	26
Biofiltration	1
Bioretention	2
Diversion to Sanitary Sewer	3
Infiltration Facility	6

Primary BMP Type	Number of IP Projects
Infiltration Well	1
Treatment Facility	13

Table 5: Regional Program Funding Allocated/Projected for Disadvantaged Communities from FY27-28, including projects from first four years

A: Total Number of IP Projects benefitting Disadvantaged Communities	B: Total SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projects through FY27-28	C: Total SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projections Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities through FY27-28	D: Percent of SCW Regional Program IP Allocations and Projections Benefitting Disadvantaged Communities through FY27-28 (C/B)
94 (of 126)	\$784M	\$661M	84.3%

Project Status & Phases

The list below summarizes the status of the 77 funded IP Projects for FY20-21 and FY21-22⁵.

- 48 Projects in planning or design phase
- 19 Projects in bid/award or construction
- 10 Projects that have completed construction or are undergoing operation and maintenance

Note that Projects and Studies in the FY22-23 and FY23-24 SIPs are in progress and Reports have not been completed or reviewed by the WASCs; therefore, the status of the projects are not yet available. Expenditures, metrics and progress for Projects and Studies in the FY22-23 and FY23-24 SIPs will be reported in the Regional Program Annual Report of progress, due December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2024, respectively, and will be summarized in the subsequent WARPP and SCWP Biennial Reports after submitted Annual Reports become available.

⁵ Note that one Project withdrawn by the Project Developer

Funding and Expenditures

Table 6 summarizes expenditures for the 77 IP Projects and 15 Scientific Studies in FY20-21 and FY21-22 SIPs.

Table 6: Summary of expenditures for FY20-21 and FY21-22 SIPs

Funding Year	Total SCW Funds Awarded up to 12/31/2022	Total SCW Expenditures up to 12/31/2022	Total Cost Share Expenditures up to 6/30/2022
SIP FY20-21	\$228,332,000	\$55,146,000	\$82,948,000
Infrastructure Program Projects	\$224,046,000	\$52,104,000	\$82,948,000
Scientific Studies	\$4,286,000	\$3,043,000	\$0
SIP FY21-22	\$104,129,000	\$5,807,000	\$8,188,000
Infrastructure Program Projects	\$102,251,000	\$8,448,000	\$8,188,000
Scientific Studies	\$1,878,000	\$463,000	\$0.00
Grand Total	\$332,461,000	\$47,378,000	\$131,624,000

Note: Information based on submitted and completed reports by Regional Program Project Developers as of end of September 2023.

Table 7 summarizes the 36 Regional Program Projects reporting SCWP expenditures in FY20-21 to FY21-22 towards Program benefits. *Note: Projects and Studies from FY22-23 and FY23-24 are in progress and Reports have not been completed or reviewed. Annual Reports, expenditures, metrics and progress for Projects and Studies from FY22-23 and FY23-24 will be reported in the Regional Program Annual Report of progress, due December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2024, respectively, and will be summarized in the subsequent SCWP Report after submitted Annual Reports become available.*

Table 7: Number of Regional Projects reporting SCWP Expenditures towards Program Benefits (FY20-21 and FY21-22)

Program Benefits	Number of IP Projects
Community Benefits	35
Water Quality Benefits	36
Water Supply Benefits	33
Nature-Based Solutions	34
Disadvantaged Communities Benefits	29
Total Number of IP Projects reporting SCWP Expenditures in FY20-21 to FY21-22	36

Note: Information provided by Regional Program Project Developers.

Watershed Coordinator Program

The TRP provides Watershed Coordinators to educate and build capacity in communities and to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement. There are a total of 12 Watershed Coordinators, with each of the nine Watershed Areas having at least one designated Watershed Coordinator. The North Santa Monica Bay watershed area is smaller and has a lower population, so it has a part-time watershed coordinator. Because of their larger size and greater populations, Central Santa Monica Bay has two watershed coordinators, and Upper Los Angeles River has three.

Watershed Coordinators play a vital role in connecting potential applicants with technical resources and promoting meaningful engagement. They work closely with Technical Assistance Teams to identify and develop innovative project concepts, as well as to secure additional funding from other sources. They actively engage with municipalities, community groups, and other interested parties, particularly those from Disadvantaged Communities, to ensure their priorities are considered.

Watershed Coordinators organize public outreach events to educate interested parties and serve as non-voting members of Watershed Area Steering Committees. They collaborate with their counterparts across watersheds to ensure consistency in implementation and share effective outreach and communication approaches. The current Watershed Coordinator Roster and Calendar can be found on the [website](#).

To date, the Watershed Coordinators have engaged over 27,000 people through 440 educational events and 448 engagement events across all 9 watershed areas. A more in-depth summary of Watershed Coordinator activities can be found in Appendix C.

Table 8: Summary of Watershed Coordinator Events

Watershed Area	Estimated People Reached	Educational Events	Engagement Events
Central Santa Monica Bay	4,000	91	58
Lower Los Angeles River	1,970	34	20
Lower San Gabriel River	390	6	10
North Santa Monica Bay	8,000	13	15
Rio Hondo	900	5	11
Santa Clara River	6,265	19	193
South Santa Monica Bay	835	141	58
Upper Los Angeles River	2,400	35	53
Upper San Gabriel River	2,500	96	30
Grand Total	27,260	440	448

Regional Program Findings

The findings highlighted here are representative of observations and feedback from governance committees, external stakeholder reports (see those identified in the Adaptive Management Section), and a survey completed by the District to collect feedback from applicants on their experience with the Regional Program. The findings included here are not comprehensive but are summarized to reflect findings that led to the development of the ROC recommendations and near-term adaptive management actions.

- Large municipalities have been most active and successful with obtaining Regional Program funds.

- Applicants and stakeholders have provided feedback that the application requirements can be cumbersome and complex for some applicants (e.g., small municipalities and NGOs/CBOs, schools).
- The number of applications is decreasing year over year as the backlog of projects identified in other planning documents/efforts (e.g., EWMPs, WMPs, IRWM, etc.) have already been submitted.
- Project opportunities and potential for benefits vary by location (e.g., water supply potential) and many feel these variations should be accounted for in watershed planning and project scoring.
- Project applications and reporting for different project phases and project sizes could be tailored.
- Surveyed project applicants have had positive experiences with the application Portal, informational materials, and information sessions.
- The metrics and information currently collected for the Regional Program could benefit from clarity and refinement.
- Definitions of Program Goals could benefit from clarity and refinement;
- Watershed planning and/or establishment of targets could assist with decision making and project identification and prioritization.
- Scoring criteria could be re-evaluated to align with experience to date in the Program and new metrics/methods.
- Inflation and the impacts of COVID-19 on supply chain and schedules have had a larger than expected impact on costs and timing of projects.

Refer to the [ROC Data Overview Presentation](#) from August 31, 2023 for additional information.

Municipal Program

The Municipal Program receives forty percent (40%) of the annual SCWP Tax Return and disburses funding directly to 85 municipalities and LA County (Unincorporated Area) based on the proportional tax revenue collected within each jurisdiction's boundary as local return. The Municipal Program is designed to maximize the ability of local governments to address local stormwater and urban runoff challenges and opportunities. Projects and programs are required to include a water quality benefit, while multi-benefit projects and nature-based solutions are strongly encouraged. The funding can be used for eligible activities such as project development, design, construction, effectiveness monitoring, operations and maintenance (including operation and maintenance of projects built to comply with 2012 MS4 permits), as well as for other programs and studies related to protecting and improving water quality in lakes, rivers and the ocean. Up to 30% of Municipal Funds may be used for maintenance of effort for eligible activities commenced before the election day for Measure W (November 6, 2018). Through the first four years of the Program (FY20-21 through FY23-24), approximately \$446.2M has been allocated to the Municipal Program.

Municipal Program Funding Process

Each municipality is required to prepare and submit an annual expenditure plan to the District prior to the start of the new fiscal year in order to execute the Municipal Transfer Agreement. The Municipal funds are disbursed once the Municipal Transfer Agreement is executed. The Municipal Program functions such that the Municipalities take ownership of disbursed funds and decide how they will allocate the funding to comply with Program requirements. The District ensures proper use of Municipal Funds via oversight processes and assesses achievements through the Annual Progress/Expenditure Reports due at the end of each year.

Municipalities are required to comply with a series of reporting requirements per their executed Safe Clean Water Municipal Program Transfer Agreement that include items like their Annual Plan for the current year and documentation of previous years' funding and activities. Municipalities are required to notify the District of any significant deviations that may impact the SCWP goals as stated in their Annual Expenditure Plan, including addition or removal of activities or significant changes to expenditures. The recurring cycle allows for transparency and accountability prior to, during and after the expenditures take place.

All Reports are made available online through the Safe Clean Water [Website](#).

Summary of Local Tax Return for Municipalities

The District publishes both the estimate and actual local tax return data on the SCWP website. Actual local tax return data is available for FY19-20 through FY22-23 following review and certification:

- [Municipal Program Fund Actuals FY19-20](#): \$110,959,670
- [Municipal Program Fund Actuals FY20-21](#): \$111,414,878
- [Municipal Program Fund Actuals FY21-22](#): \$112,263,540
- [Municipal Program Fund Actuals FY22-23](#): \$111,643,586

The funding allocations only indicate eligible annual local tax return for each municipality. To receive the funds, each municipality must comply with the reporting requirements. As of September 2023, only one city has not met their reporting requirements, and therefore, has not received any of their municipal funding allocations.

Summary of Reported Activity and Expenditure

Reporting information is available for the Municipal Reports submitted in FY20-21 and FY21-22 which details expenditures of fund actuals from FY19-20 and FY20-21, respectively. All reported activities implemented through the Municipal Program are currently differentiated based on their “Type,” which include Projects, Program, Operation & Maintenance, and Stakeholder & Community Outreach/Engagement. The following table summarizes the number of activities and expenditures reported for each activity type during the first two years of the Program, which have completed reporting. Some of the Municipalities have used their local return for funding of Regional Projects, which is also included in the Project activity type.

Table 9: Municipal Program Activity Types and Expenditures Summary for FY20-21 and FY21-22

Municipal Activity Type	Number of Activities Reported (FY20-21 and FY21-22)	Total Reported Expenditures (FY20-21 and FY21-22)
Projects	115 ¹	\$43,312,000
Program	269	\$42,808,000
Operation & Maintenance	59	\$6,931,000
Stakeholder & Community Outreach/Engagement	10	\$115,000
Total	453	\$93,166,000

Note: Information reported by Municipalities in the SCWP Reporting Module.

¹ Includes 15 funded Regional Program Projects incorporating local cost share

Table 10 summarizes Municipal Program Project Activity reporting SCWP expenditures in FY20-21 to FY21-22 towards Program benefits. Note: Municipal Activities from FY22-23 and FY23-24 are in progress and Reports have not been completed or reviewed. Annual Reports, expenditures, metrics and progress for Municipal Program Activities from FY22-23 and FY23-24 will be reported in the Municipal Annual Report of progress, due December 31, 2023 and December 31, 2024, respectively, and will be summarized in the subsequent SCWP Report after submitted Annual Reports become available.

Table 10: Number of Municipal Program Projects reporting SCWP Expenditures towards Program Benefits

Program Benefits	Number of Projects¹
Community Benefits	100
Water Quality Benefits	81
Water Supply Benefits	15
Nature-Based Solutions	78
Disadvantaged Communities Benefits	8
Total number of Municipal Projects reporting expenditures in FY20-21 to FY21-22	100

Note: Information reported by Municipalities in the SCWP Reporting Module.

¹ Municipal Program activity benefit data was only available for the subset of 100 Project type Municipal Program Activities. Does not include 15 funded Regional Program Projects that reported local cost share with Municipal Program to avoid double counting.

Summary of SCWP Goals Achieved Through Municipal Program

Municipalities are required to self-report how funded activities align with the SCWP Goals. Table 11 shows the number of municipalities (out of 86) that have self-reported SCWP expenditures on at least one activity that contributes towards a SCWP Goal for the two years that reporting data are available (FY20-21 and FY21-22). It should be noted that one municipality has not received Municipal Program Funds to date.

Table 11: Summary of Municipalities Implementing an Activity towards SCWP Goals

SCWP Goal	SCWP Goal Description	Number of Municipalities Implementing an Activity towards Goal in FY20-21 to FY21-22	Percentage of all Municipalities
Goal A	Improves water quality and contribute to attainment of water-quality requirements?	8379 ¹	91.86 %
Goal B	Increases drought preparedness by capturing more Stormwater and/or Urban Runoff to store, clean, reuse, and/or recharge groundwater basins?	51	59.30 %
Goal C	Improves public health by preventing and cleaning up contaminated water, increasing access to open space, providing additional recreational opportunities, and helping communities mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change through activities such as increasing shade and green space?	44	51.16 %
Goal D	Leverages other funding sources to maximize SCWP Goals?	38	44.19 %
Goal E	Invests in infrastructure that provides multiple benefits?	53	61.63 %
Goal F	Prioritizes Nature-Based Solutions?	30	34.88 %
Goal G	Provides a spectrum of project sizes from neighborhood to regional scales?	43	50.00 %
Goal H	Encourages innovation and adoption of new technologies and practices?	29	33.72 %

SCWP Goal	SCWP Goal Description	Number of Municipalities Implementing an Activity towards Goal in FY20-21 to FY21-22	Percentage of all Municipalities
Goal I	Invests in independent scientific research?	16	18.60 %
Goal J	Provides [Disadvantaged Community] DAC Benefits, including Regional Program infrastructure investments, that are not less than one hundred and ten percent (110%) of the ratio of the [Disadvantaged Community] population to the total population in each Watershed Area?	21	24.42 %
Goal K	Provides Regional Program infrastructure funds benefitting each Municipality in proportion to the funds generated within their jurisdiction, after accounting for allocation of the one hundred and ten percent (110%) return to [Disadvantaged Communities] DACs, to the extent feasible?	10	11.63 %
Goal L	Implements an iterative planning and evaluation process to ensure adaptive management?	53	61.63 %
Goal M	Promotes green jobs and career pathways?	50	58.14 %
Goal N	Ensures ongoing operations and maintenance for Projects?	50	58.14 %

Note: Information reported by Municipalities in the SCWP Reporting Module.

¹ May include reported expenditures towards a Regional Program Infrastructure Project funded in approved SIP. Seven Municipalities reported zero Project expenditures as of September 2023.

Municipal Program Findings

The Municipal Program is a significant portion of the overall Program (40%) and is designed to provide municipalities with the flexibility to make progress towards the SCWP Goals based on their self-assessment of needs and strategies. Some findings observed from the first few years of implementation include:

- Staffing turnover rates at individual municipalities and exposure/understanding of the SCWP varies widely. Significant coordination and education are needed to facilitate timely and complete reporting and Transfer Agreements for the 86 municipalities.
- Streamlining of the Annual Plan and Annual Report procedures may allow for expedited processes.
- Expanding the functionality and user interfaces for the Municipal Reporting Module could support more in-depth insights into fund expenditures.
- Additional metrics and criteria (in alignment with the MMS) could allow for more informative reporting towards Program Goals at the Municipal Program level.

District Program

The District Program receives ten percent (10%) of the funding from the SCWP for administration and implementation of the District Education Program which includes, but is not limited to, public education and community engagement (including a sustained education and engagement program for disadvantaged communities), local workforce job training, and schools' education and curriculum programs.

Over the first four years of SCWP, the District's Program received \$111.5M and spent \$24M (see Table 12 for expenditures to date and noting that not less than twenty percent [20%] of District Program funds shall be allocated for District Education Programs over a revolving five [5] year period). An additional \$20M in contracts are in progress for several significant efforts discussed in this Report including the Education and Engagement Grants Program, MMS, SCWP Portal Enhancements, Regional Coordination, Workforce Development Program, Schools Education Program, and SCWP Website enhancements, not including District administration costs. The District has assembled a dedicated SCWP team to develop, initiate, and manage the Program in its early years, as well as support the many early and ongoing adaptive management efforts.

In alignment with the Board Motion for Accelerating Implementation of the Safe, Clean Water Program, the District is evaluating additional dedicated resources to support efforts like watershed planning. The gap in spending, as compared to the available resources, is expected to diminish rapidly once additional labor resources are established and other in-development efforts are in place (including the watershed area planning, the full suite of educational programs, and enhanced adaptive management).

Table 12: Total expenditures to date for the District Program

Fiscal Year	Total Expenditures
FY19-20	\$3,535,000
FY20-21	\$4,966,000
FY21-22	\$7,612,000
FY22-23	\$7,835,000
Total	\$23,947,000

Program Administration

In the initial years of the Program, it was crucial that the District establish robust financial, governance, and administrative functions to support this vast, complex, and intricate endeavor. The District is responsible for a number of ongoing Program administration activities, including but not limited to:

- **Formation, management, and facilitation of the Regional Oversight Committee:** This Regional Oversight Committee consists of nine Board-appointed voting members and two non-voting members responsible for assessing whether Safe, Clean Water Program goals are being achieved. The District supports and staffs the ROC on an ongoing basis to facilitate meaningful discussion and decision making in accordance with the Ralph M. Brown Act of 1953. Further detail about composition and roles is in the Ordinance and the corresponding Operating Guidelines.
- **Formation, management, and facilitation of the Regional Program governance committees (Scoring Committee and the nine WASCs):** The 171 members of these governance committees include the 12 Watershed Coordinators as non-voting members and have collectively met nearly 80 times each year. These meetings are also subject to the Brown Act and regularly require significant resources and coordination by the District, including adapting to virtual meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic and more recently hybrid meetings. Further detail about composition and roles is in the Ordinance and the corresponding Operating Guidelines.
- **Development and management of SCWP Portal, data, and tools:** The District manages and maintains the SCWP Website, Portals, Tools, Dashboards, and Maps, which allow for program participants to apply for SCWP funding, for SCWP Committees to evaluate and recommend projects for funding, and for funded projects to report on progress and how SCWP Goals are being achieved. As the SCWP evolves, the SCWP suite of tools are consistently being improved upon based on lessons learned, feedback from project applicants and developers, and needs of the community. Some notable recent and upcoming enhancements to the SCWP suite of tools include:
 - Annual enhancement to the SCWP Projects Application Portal. The Call for Projects FY24-25 included the optional pilot Water Supply scoring method.
 - SCWP Dashboard enhancements, like addition of SCW Bid and Projects Schedules to allow the public to view estimated SCWP Projects construction schedule and help contractors submit bids for SCWP Projects.
 - Updates to SCWP Regional Transfer Agreement and Addendum Portal is anticipated to be live in October 2023 to streamline the process to execute agreements and disburse SCWP funds to Regional Program Project and Study Developers.
 - Updates to the Regional and Municipal Program Reporting Modules to improve user interface and better measure, track, report on goals and progress.

- Continuous updates to the Spatial Data Library to view relevant available data and explore the interconnected, dynamic relationships at play—a key concept for the multi-benefit projects promoted by the SCWP.
- **Management of tax collection and tax relief programs:** Important activities include updates to the landcover impermeable area that serves as the basis for the tax roll, review and approval of impermeable area appeals (407 approved to date), approval of tax adjustments/exemptions/credits (13,000 ad valorem exemptions/reductions, 1,143 Low Income Senior Owned [LISO] Parcel Exemptions, 35 General Income Based Tax Reductions [GIBTR], and 20 Credit Applications to date).
- **Management of the Credit Program and Credit Trading Program:** The SCWP allows for parcels that have stormwater improvements that provide quantifiable benefits such as water quality, water supply, and community benefits to apply for credits that would reduce the parcel's SCWP assessment. Since the inception of the SCWP, the District has received 24 Credit applications, with 20 of them being approved. To build off of the existing Credit Program, the District is currently developing the Credit Trading Program, which would allow for parcels to apply for credits to first fulfill their SCWP assessment, and then possibly generating additional credits to sell to other parcels that have SCWP assessment obligations.
- **Review and approval of Reporting and Transfer Agreement information, and disbursement of funds:** The District reviews all submitted Regional Program Applications/Attachments, Regional Program Quarterly Reports, Municipal Annual Plans, and Municipal Annual Reports for completeness.
- **Development of Program-wide Reporting:** The District develops or supports with the development of required materials and reports according to ordinance and operating guideline-specified timelines (e.g., SIP materials, Biennial Report, WARPP Reports, etc.).
- **Disbursement of Regional and Municipal Funds:** The District also manages disbursement of funds, including collection and review of appropriate documentation, execution of Transfer Agreements and Addenda.
- **Regional Coordination and Watershed Coordinators:** The District funds a Regional Coordination Team that supports the Safe Clean Water Program, coordinating the 12 Watershed Coordinators, facilitating and supporting governance activities, providing technical assistance, and as-needed services and project management.
- **Independent review of Scientific Studies:** The District funds an independent review process to provide an unbiased evaluation of the technical adequacy and robustness of each Scientific Studies Program application to support governance committee decision-making on the awarding Regional Program Funds.

The District also oversees and manages a number of one-time efforts like the MMS and Equity White Paper, as well as development of specific guidance and guideline documents. Many of these efforts are described in the Adaptive Management section of this report.

District Education Programs

The SCWP District Education Program empowers the people of Los Angeles County to take action to support the goals of the SCWP. The District will oversee programs including, but not limited to, public education and community engagement programs, local workforce job training, and school education and curriculum programs. Thoughtful and coordinated investments in the District Education Programs are being prioritized, as the goal is to develop and sustain program(s) that are coordinated with the many experienced and respected partners throughout LA County.

- Public Education and Community Engagement:** The primary means for distributing information about the SCWP is via the [website](#), which reaches 125,000 people per year on average about key initiatives and projects improving stormwater management across the region. The District is undertaking a strategic refresh of SCWP communications and redevelopment of the website to better provide consistent, clear, up-to-date, and culturally relevant information about the Program. The website and other communications (e.g., email blasts) will be designed to cater to diverse audiences and encourage the sharing of opportunities for participation and engagement. The Program also amplifies communication through the Water for LA initiative, which is a trusted resource on all things water to support an LA County where residents understand and nurture their relationship with water. ***The District is also developing a pilot Public Education and Community Engagement Grants Program, which is described further in the Adaptive Management section.***
- Workforce Training Programs:** The District is working on development of workforce training program(s) in coordination with other County-wide entities like the Department of Economic Opportunity to leverage existing programs and job placement/outreach platforms since workforce development is an issue being address at a larger scale than just the SCWP. The program(s) are anticipated to provide certification classes and vocational training at the community level for the construction, inspection, operation and maintenance of stormwater management and multi-benefit projects. The County has also adopted a new Community Workforce Agreement that includes Local Residents and Targeted Workers provisions, which will be considered in the Training Programs as well.
- Schools Education and Curriculum Programs:** The District has completed a benchmarking white paper that looked at best practices in stormwater and watershed education, as well as the potential for intersection of school greening and curriculum. The District is assessing next steps for supporting/enhancing existing schools education programs and evaluating opportunities to align education with school greening as part of the Infrastructure Program.

District Program Findings

The following summarizes findings related to the District Program:

- An increase in District staffing is needed to implement the recommendations in this Report, including watershed planning and adaptive management efforts, as well as accelerate implementation of the District Education Programs. For example, continuation of baseline administration activities in the next year is expected to include facilitation of around 80 Governance Committee meetings, review of 86 Municipal Annual Plans and 86 Municipal Annual Reports, and review of over 400 Regional Program Quarterly Reports, as well as all the other activities described above.
- Consideration of how to streamline processes for the Municipal and Regional Program to realize efficiencies for Program participants and for the District should be undertaken.
- The District Education Programs involve elements that are bigger than the SCWP and should be thoughtfully developed in conjunction with other Countywide efforts and to ensure sustainable investments and expansions are maintained over time.
- Continued adaptation and refinement of guidance, processes, and tools that will further maximize SCWP Goals and efforts to support long term planning are needed.

Conclusion

A tremendous amount has been accomplished, and much has been learned throughout the Program's development over the past four years. The review of progress, Program refinement to date, and recommendations included in this inaugural Report provide a strong foundation for adaptive management of the Program going forward. The SCWP is an enormous, unprecedented, and hugely important effort. We look forward our continued work with the Board of Supervisors as we collaboratively seek to best realize the Safe, Clean Water Program goals for the region.

Appendices

DRAFT

Appendix A - Summary of Program Awards Received



2019 – First Place: Improving Water Quality Campaign National Association of Flood and Stormwater Management Agencies



2021 Outstanding Sustainable Stormwater Project or Program California Stormwater Quality Association



2021 Golden Eagle Nominee and Top 10 Productivity and Quality Award Board of Supervisors Quality and Productivity Commission



2022 Sustainable Engineering Award ASCE Metro LA Branch and LA Section



2022 NACo Achievement Award Winner National Association of Counties



2022 Sustainable Engineering Award ASCE Region 9



2022 Challenge Award Winner California State Association of Counties

Appendix B - Summary of Funded Scientific Studies

DRAFT

Project Name	Project Type	Watershed Area	Call for Projects FY	Total Projected to Date	Status Update	Project Description
LRS Adaptation to Address the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group	Scientific Study	Rio Hondo Upper Los Angeles River	FY20-21	\$1,150,000.00	Complete	This study will identify the most effective pathway to improved public health and attainment of bacteria-related water quality objectives.
preSIP: A Platform for Watershed Science and Project Collaboration	Scientific Study	Rio Hondo Upper Los Angeles River	FY20-21	\$2,340,000.00	In Progress	As a precursor to the SIP, the “preSIP” will support the WASC by providing a platform to reconcile overlapping objectives and disparate project proposals into a cohesive, collaborative, and cost-effective plan.
Recalculation of Wet Weather Zinc Criterion	Scientific Study	Upper Los Angeles River South Santa Monica Bay	FY20-21	\$410,717.00	In Progress	The Study will evaluate zinc toxicity in the Los Angeles River, Ballona Creek, and Dominguez Channel watersheds
San Gabriel Valley Regional Confirmation of Infiltration Rates	Scientific Study	Upper San Gabriel River	FY20-21	\$385,000.00	Complete	Field measured infiltration rates utilizing standard methods of practice for 9 identified sites and 6 sites that are not yet identified to optimize project design and prioritize project implementation.
Evaluation of infiltration testing methods for design of stormwater drywell systems	Scientific Study	Upper Los Angeles River	FY21-22	\$554,684.00	In Progress	To provide accurate and cost-effective infiltration test methods that will result in more cost-effective drywell infiltration systems.
Fire Effects Study in the ULAR Watershed Management Area	Scientific Study	Rio Hondo Upper Los Angeles River	FY21-22	\$805,000.00	In Progress	The study will evaluate post-fire runoff and create BMP models to support water quality objectives and help meet impending TMDL deadlines.
Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis)	Scientific Study	Lower Los Angeles River Lower San Gabriel River	FY21-22	\$150,000.00	Complete	Finding and analyzing new projects in a watershed context to plot a coordinated, project-by-project pathway to safe, clean water
LAUSD Living Schoolyards Program Pilot Study	Scientific Study	Upper Los Angeles River	FY21-22	\$943,379.00	In Progress	Research the particular needs of schools for capturing on- and off-site stormwater relative to nature-based and traditional solutions.
Regional Pathogen Reduction Study	Scientific Study	Upper San Gabriel River South Santa Monica Bay Santa Clara River North Santa Monica Bay Lower Los Angeles River	FY21-22 FY22-23	\$3,491,126.54	Not Started	The latest science will be used to support the reduction of human pathogens and protect human health.
Additional Funding Request to Support the LRS Adaptation Addressing the LA River Bacteria TMDL for the ULAR Watershed Management Group	Scientific Study	Rio Hondo Upper Los Angeles River	FY22-23	\$500,123.00	In Progress	Support the LRS Adaptation with strategic risk-based monitoring and human waste source investigations to guide long-term pathogen reduction.
Community Garden Stormwater Capture Investigation	Scientific Study	Central Santa Monica Bay Upper San Gabriel River Upper Los Angeles River	FY22-23	\$1,134,854.00	In Progress	Community gardens can function as stormwater capture facilities. This study will investigate opportunities including conducting outreach.
Gateway Area Pathfinding Analysis (GAP Analysis) - Phase 2	Scientific Study	Lower Los Angeles River Lower San Gabriel River	FY22-23	\$460,000.00	In Progress	Scales-up methods tested in Phase 1 to find and analyze longer-term, project-by-project, watershed-scale pathways to safe, clean water
Maximizing Impact of Minimum Control Measures	Scientific Study	Upper San Gabriel River Rio Hondo Upper Los Angeles River	FY22-23	\$1,436,520.17	In Progress	Develop tools to quantitatively estimate the effectiveness of MCMs and recommend implementation strategies for optimization.
Microplastics in LA County Stormwater	Scientific Study	Central Santa Monica Bay Lower Los Angeles River Lower San Gabriel River South Santa Monica Bay	FY22-23	\$991,006.00	In Progress	Monitoring and modeling microplastics in stormflow to optimize monitoring techniques and inform management of LA County watersheds.
Ground truth: guiding a soils-based strategy for impactful nature-based solutions	Scientific Study	Lower Los Angeles River	FY23-24	\$446,138.00	Not Started	A study delivering detailed mechanisms, calculations, sites, and designs for leveraging impactful nature-based solutions
Targeted Human Waste Source Reduction Strategy to Address Bacteria-Related Compliance Objectives for the Los Cerritos Channel	Scientific Study	Lower San Gabriel River	FY23-24	\$475,000.00	In Progress	Data-driven framework to guide and prioritize source ID and abatement efforts, focusing on reducing sources of human waste, for bacteria.

Appendix C - Watershed Coordinator Activities

DRAFT

Appendix C: Watershed Coordinator Program

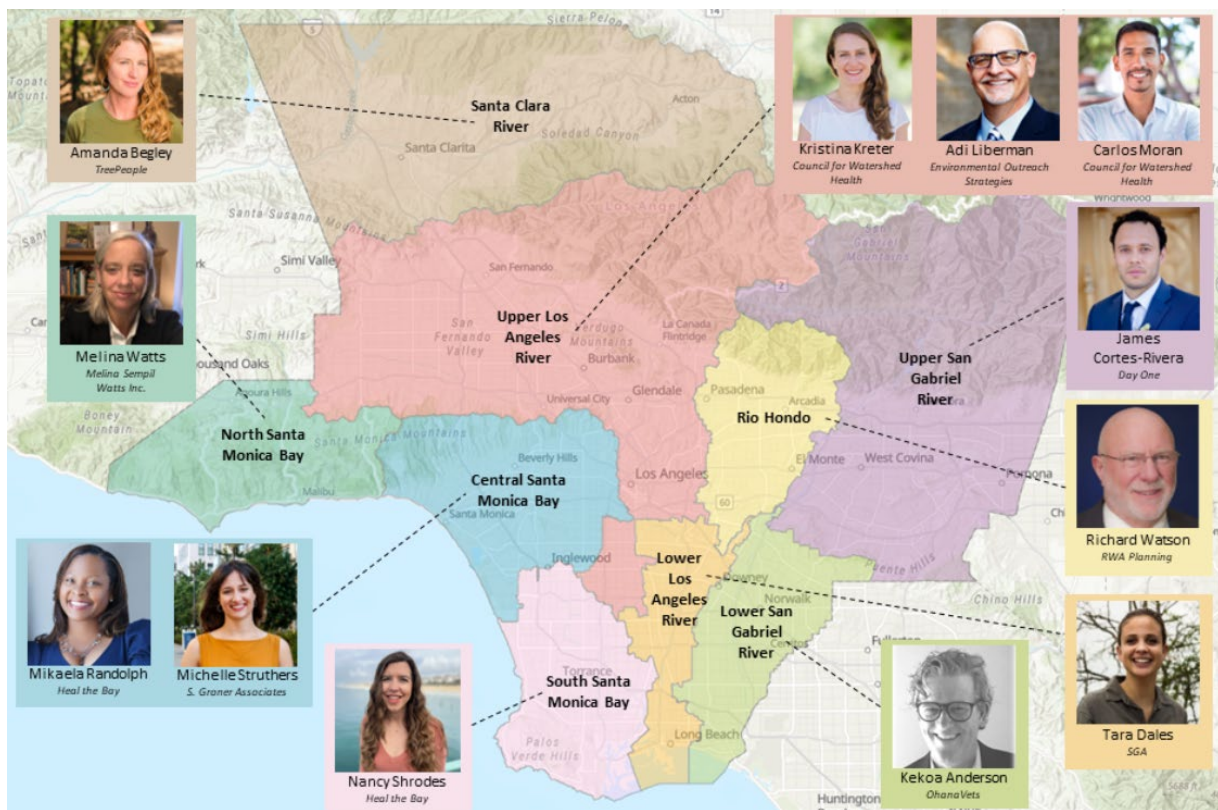
The Technical Resources Program provides 12 Watershed Coordinators (WCs) to educate and build capacity in communities and to facilitate community and stakeholder engagement with the SCW Program. The Watershed Coordinators play a vital role in connecting potential applicants with technical resources and promoting meaningful engagement to achieve the goals of the SCW Program. They work closely with Technical Assistance Teams to identify and develop innovative project concepts, as well as secure additional funding sources. They actively engage with municipalities, community groups, and other interested parties, particularly those from disadvantaged communities, to ensure their priorities are considered. Through their leadership, they facilitate collaborative decision-making and develop actions that best address community needs. They also work tirelessly to integrate community, municipality, and regional priorities through partnerships and extensive networks. The Watershed Coordinators organize public outreach events to educate interested parties and serve as a non-voting member of the Watershed Area Steering Committee. They collaborate with their counterparts to ensure consistency in implementation and share effective outreach and communication approaches. Through their efforts, the Watershed Coordinators make a significant contribution to advancing the SCWP's mission.

Watershed Coordinators carry out these goals through nine tasks:

Task	Outcomes
 1. Facilitate Community Engagement in SCWP	...sustained community engagement...
 2. Identify and Develop Project Concepts	...projects that fulfill program goals...
 3. Work with Technical Assistance Teams	...contribute to technical assistance...
 4. Facilitate Identification and Representation of Community Priorities	...addressing community priorities...
 5. Integrate Priorities Through Partnerships and Extensive Networks	...share lessons learned...
 6. Cost-Share Partners	...identify cost-sharing projects...
 7. Leverage Funding	...identify funding...
 8. Local Stakeholder Education	...conduct education for communities...
 9. Watershed Coordinator Collaboration	...ensure consistency across SCWP...

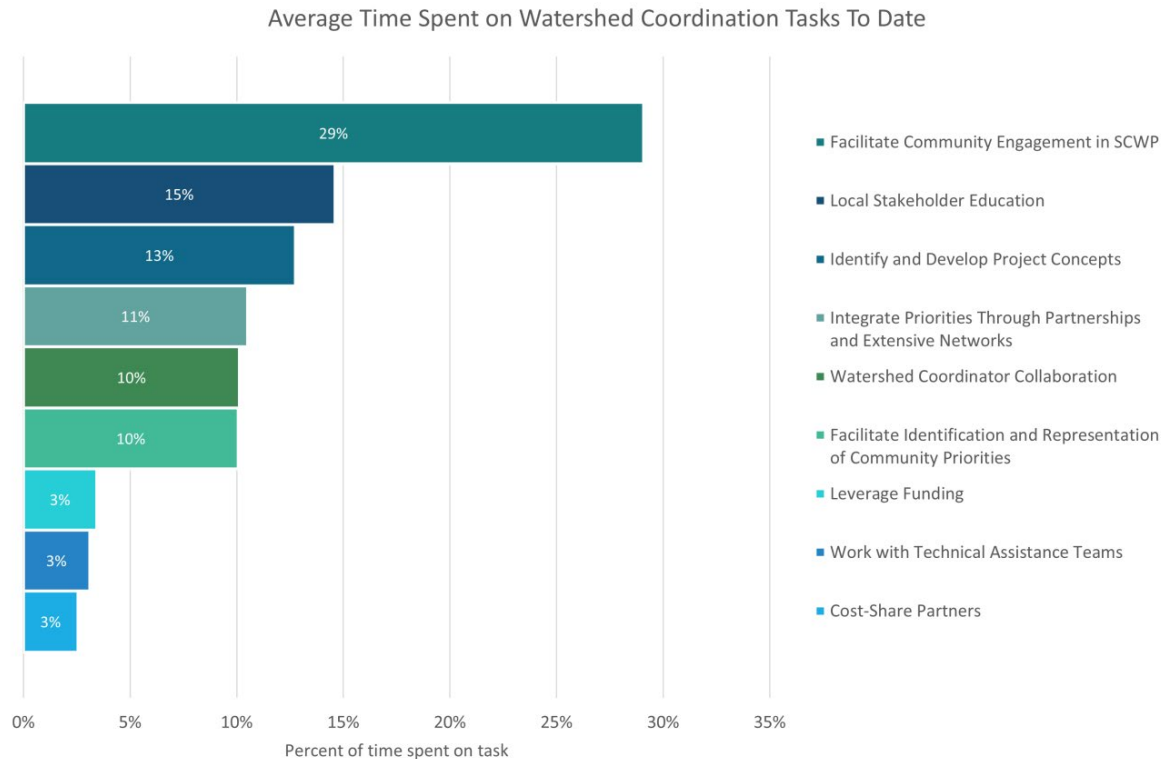
Who are the Watershed Coordinators?

Each Watershed Area has one Watershed Coordinator with exceptions for North Santa Monica Bay with one part-time position, Central Santa Monica Bay with two positions, and Upper Los Angeles River with three positions, as the positions are dependent on revenue and population. Watershed Coordinator contracts are designed to have a potential maximum contract term of 4 years, consisting of an initial 1-year term and potential additional three 1-year option renewals. All 12 Watershed Coordinators began their contracts in 2021. The total investment across the SCW Program for Watershed Coordinators to date is \$9.2M.



Watershed Coordinator Activities

With the exception of NSMB, Watershed Coordinators are full-time positions that engage in hundreds of activities every year. Below is the average amount of a full time equivalent that Watershed Coordinators have spent on each of the nine WC tasks to date:



Community engagement and local stakeholder education are a substantial part of the WC program. To date, the watershed coordinators have hosted an estimated total of 850 events, 443 of which were engagement events and 435 were educational events. These events have resulted in an estimated 26,350 individual contacts.

The Watershed Coordinators maintain a [calendar](#) of all SCW Program Watershed Coordination-related educational and outreach events, workshops, project tours, tabling's, and more. Events are categorized by the nine SCW Program watershed areas and each calendar can be subscribed to individually.

In addition, WCs have directly supported 77 funded projects in various capacities, including engagement about the projects and connection of project proponents with appropriate resources or community groups. WC have also helped identify and secure leveraged funding that totals \$191,588,000 across all watersheds.

Press Links

The Watershed Coordinators have conducted outreach, and shared their work through a variety of press and media sources. Some examples include:

- SCR:
 - Santa Clarita Magazine- "Garden Smarter" (pg. 6)
 - LAist- 89.3FM: "Checking in on Los Angeles's Stormwater Capture"
 - TREE Talks: "Saving Water"- Virtual Event on World Water Day
 - The iHeart SoCal Show w/Lisa Foxx- March 26th, 2023
- USGR:
 - Kiwanis Club of Pomona "Orange Peel" Newsletter- April 2023
- SSMB
 - Manhattan Beach Social Magazine- June, 2021 (pg. 6)
- ULAR
 - Pacoima Wash Project- Check Presentation with Senator Padilla
 - Pacoima Wash Project- Check Presentation with Assemblywoman Rivas
 - LAist Green Alley

Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plans

Each WC maintains a Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan (SOEP) that aim to identify strategies to build meaningful and cooperative working relationships, solicit and value each community's perspective and expertise, and work with SCWP partners to advance education, involvement, and connectivity back to water-related issues. SOEPs are updated every year and approved by respective WASCs. Links to the most recently updated and approved SOEPs are included below.

Watershed Area	Strategic Outreach and Engagement Plan
Central Santa Monica Bay	SOEP Link
Lower Los Angeles River	SOEP Link
Lower San Gabriel River	SOEP Link
North Santa Monica Bay	SOEP Link
Rio Hondo	SOEP Link
Santa Clara River	SOEP Link
South Santa Monica Bay	SOEP Link
Upper Los Angeles River	SOEP Link
Upper San Gabriel River	SOEP Link

Watershed Coordinator Collaboration

Watershed Coordinators collaborate to share resources developed and learnings from activities. They also work together on cross-watershed engagement events and co-present to various regional or cross-watershed interested parties.

The WC have established two working groups to target key issue areas within the SCWP:

- The Schools working group develops strategies to effectively involve schools and school districts in the SCWP
- The Leveraged Funding working group meets to discuss best practices to engage project proponents with funding opportunities

Monthly meetings of the WC are organized to share updates, hear presentations, and discuss issue areas of interest. Topics have included:

- Tools to help WASCs establish watershed area funding priorities
- Community engagement strategies with local organizers
- Overviews of SCWP Metrics and Monitoring Study, District Education Program, and Credit Trading Program
- Nexus of homelessness and the SCWP
- Stormwater and environmental racism
- Workforce Development

Successes

Watershed Coordinators led and participated in a number of successful events – some highlights are below:

Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinators in Action:



The Central Santa Monica Bay Watershed Coordinators tabled at the Ballona Discovery Park during the Friends of Ballona Wetlands' annual Migration Celebration event to educate families attending the event about the Ballona Creek watershed, the impact of urban runoff to Los Angeles' waterways, and about the Safe Clean Water Program.

Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinators in Action:



The Lower San Gabriel River Watershed Coordinator giving a tour to Whittier Mayor Joe Vinatieri of nature-based and mechanical solutions to capture and treat stormwater. [Clean Water Vision Education Trailer at Whittier Concert in the Park].

Rio Hondo Watershed Coordinators in Action:



The Rio Hondo team and the Council for Watershed Health co-hosted a table at the 626 Golden Streets Event in Alhambra on May 1, 2022. The Council's interactive watershed model drew many community members, including numerous families with children, who enjoyed the hands-on demonstration of how trash and other pollutants enter our waterways.

Santa Clara River Highlight:

“The community of Acton in the southeast corner of the area has dealt with chronic flooding for decades, which has become increasingly worse over time due to gradual development and a changing climate. The County has been working on the issue for nearly 30 years but with limited success for a variety of good reasons. We worked with the WaterTalks program to identify this area as a priority. Over the past several months, they have brought engineers, designers, and facilitators in to explore alternative approaches to managing the situation, and a final Report of Recommendations will be given to LA County and the Town Council later this year.” -Watershed Coordinator Amanda Begley (TreePeople)

Upper Los Angeles River Highlight:

“We are most proud of our ongoing outreach and engagement with the business community. Key members of the business community formed the major initial opposition to the passage of Measure W in 2018. In response to our outreach efforts, the Los Angeles County Business Federation (BizFed) decided to focus one of its four main policy programs on the issue of water infrastructure resiliency in Los Angeles County and host water resiliency forums that

feature the Safe, Clean Water Program. Due, in part, to our outreach and engagement with the business community, we believe we have helped maintain a healthy and productive dialogue between business leaders and the Safe Clean Water Program.” -Watershed Coordinator Adi Liberman (Environmental Outreach Strategies)

Upper San Gabriel River Highlight:

“At the USGR, we take seriously our engagement with disadvantaged communities, and we seek innovative ways to involve this group in the SCWP. We are proud of holding watershed hikes for veterans, educational activities for charters schools, presentations for senior citizens, and nature walks for students. We make sure to meet the community where they are by attending, organizing, and participating in events where disadvantaged communities are the primary attendees.” -Watershed Coordinator James Cortes-Rivera (Day One)

Challenges

As part of the biennial report process, the Regional Coordination team challenged the Watershed Coordinators to identify some of the challenges they face carrying out the broad watershed coordination scope of work. Below is a summary of the answers provided across the twelve watershed coordinators.

Many of the Watershed Coordinators identified barriers in supporting the development of new project applications, particularly for smaller multi-benefit projects led by community-based organizations, non-governmental organizations, schools, unincorporated communities, and smaller municipalities. Watershed Coordinators have found difficulty in supporting proponents that cite barriers such as the burden of administration requirements, difficulty in getting cost-effectiveness points, and space/ hydrology limitations in certain watershed areas.

Supporting the leveraged funding aspect of the program has remained a challenge for Watershed Coordinators when engaging with interested parties who lack significant staff capacity. Identifying funding opportunities has proven to be a critical component of the SCW Program as unmet funding needs continue to increase.

Finally, Watershed Coordinators have also noted difficulties in helping WASCs allocate funds equitably across a diverse portfolio of projects. As projects are funded, it remains a priority for Watershed Coordinators to help WASCs balance a spectrum of project types and sizes while considering proportional municipality benefits, disadvantaged community benefits, access to green space and bodies of water, prioritizing nature-based solutions, and reserving budget.

Annual and Quarterly Reporting

Watershed Coordinator Annual Reports for FY21-22 and FY22-23 may be viewed here:

[Google Drive](#)